

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Region 3 Case Studies

Case Study 1: Santa Barbara County Local Agency Management Planning (LAMP)



Lengthy discussions were taking place with the Santa Barbara County Public Health, Public Works Departments, and Central Coast Water Board staff regarding Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems inclusion into a county- wide LAMP. It was clear that the process was becoming hampered by strong push back at the county level. Leveraging the local Santa Barbara County contacts of Board member Jeffrey Young, a meeting was organized in Santa Barbara with the County's key department's management, the RWQCB Executive Officer, Board LAMP program staff, Dr. Jean-Pierre

Wolff, Board Chair, and Board member Young. The half-day meeting yielded frank discussions from all parties concerned and provided the framework for fast-track development of a robust LAMP plan and program. Based on a long history of working relationships with board members, County leadership knows our Board members are targeting what's in both the Board's and County's best interests, and therefore responded more favorably to board member input.

Case Study 2: Bridging Communication on the Salinas River Field Trip

A 92-mile long stretch of the Salinas River is currently subject to a 401 certification for channel maintenance within Monterey County. As part of maintaining secondary channels, the project includes a significant Arundo removal component. Additionally, the project involves many agencies and stakeholders, multiple years of funding needs, and the delicate balance between flood protection, invasive weed control, steelhead trout habitat, and private landowners. Board member Bruce Delgado helped organize the Central California Invasive Weed Symposium at Fort Ord. As part of the one-day Symposium, he organized a field trip to the Salinas River site to observe the Arundo removal techniques in progress. The field trip included landowners, RCD, State Park, BLM, Elkhorn Slough Reserve, Department of Fish and Wildlife, restorationists, consultants, students, Land Trusts, Agriculture Commissioner, RWQCB staff, and Board member Delgado. This Symposium and field trip provided a unique educational opportunity to bridge the communication gaps between a broad range of diverse interests and a win-win opportunity for everyone.



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Case Study 3: San Jerardo Cooperative Housing Drinking Water System



San Jerardo is a small housing cooperative and disadvantaged community (DAC) southeast of Salinas in Monterey County and surrounded by agriculture. Their community well became impacted with nitrate and the State Water Board assisted the community with funding to drill a new water supply well and connect it to the community. Monterey County currently owns and operates the water system for the San Jerardo community. The County recently signaled that it no longer wished to operate the system and would likely sell it, however the San Jerardo community expressed interest in becoming the operator of their own system, if they could demonstrate the technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity to do so. Board member Dr. Monica Hunter, as the R3

environmental justice (EJ) liaison on the board, organized and participated in EJ tours to San Jerardo and other DAC communities within the region. Dr. Hunter and the Board Chair, Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff, are also engaged with staff to ensure San Jerardo has every opportunity to demonstrate the TMF capacity to own and operate their own water system. As part of a March 2016 EJ tour, State Board members Tam Doduc and Frances Spivy-Weber participated and spoke with community members, lending their assistance to this issue. Dr. Hunter and Dr. Wolff continue to be engaged in this issue to see that the community is afforded the opportunity to qualify to own and operate their water system and keep water rates affordable, and will participate in conversations with County department heads and supervisors as we go forward and as necessary.



Case Study 4: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the Men's Colony



The Cal Poly San Luis Obispo campus and the California Men's Colony (State Correctional Institution) facility are located near each other in the Chorro Valley of San Luis Obispo County. Despite the close proximity there was no communication between the two institutions. The Men's Colony has an onsite water treatment plant designed to accommodate the population of 7,000 inmates. New California state regulations have reduced the population to 4,000, leaving unused additional wastewater treatment plant capacity. The plant discharges the treated water in a nearby creek for aquatic benefit and the balance to a local golf

course. The drought has caused significant challenges to Cal Poly's agriculture department irrigated farms on site. Chair Wolff is a member of the Cal Poly College of Agriculture Food and Environmental Science Dean's Executive Board. Chair Wolff contacted the Men's Colony Warden, and facilitated and attended a meeting on campus which included key management from both institutions. The meeting explored closer collaboration benefits and yielded three opportunities: 1) During the winter, excess tertiary treated wastewater not being used on the golf course can refill Cal Poly's irrigation reservoirs, 2) Cal Poly could treat some of its waste water at the Men's Colony treatment plant and re-cycle it for irrigation use, and 3) Cal Poly science and engineering students can participate in internships performing various lab tests for the wastewater treatment plant.